

"GRAFT DOES NOT FOLLOW THE FLAG"

Engineer A. B. Wilson Takes Issue with O. W. Sager Regarding Conditions at Panama.

ONLY ONE GRAFT CASE KNOWN

Says That Stories Emanate from "Irish Consulate" and Grow with the Drinks.

LYNCHBURG, Va., January 6.—Mr. A. B. Wilson, formerly of the United States engineering corps, in an interview here takes issue with Oliver W. Sager, of Findlay, O., in which that gentleman declares that "graft follows the flag." Mr. Wilson says:

"Graft don't follow our flag. The statement made by my colleague, Mr. Sager, has been made on hearsay and cannot be confirmed. Having been down on the Panama Canal before the United States bought it, and later with the first engineers to go down with Mr. Wallace, I know the conditions at their worst. Mr. Carl Strom, the chief mechanical engineer, is a man whose integrity is above question. Mr. Strom bought everything at that time, as his successor does now.

"Perhaps my colleague is referring to the vast amount of machinery now on the isthmus, and which was there since the 'good old French days.' If so, I agree with him that an enormous amount was expended for engines which apparently will never be used but if the goods deeper into the matter, he will find that twenty-five per cent. of the machinery could be used, if up-to-date. Yes, seventy-five per cent. of the machinery on the isthmus left by the French was in good order when the United States bought it, and a greater portion of it will be used on the smaller work attached to the construction.

"During my time on the isthmus (two administrations), the only case of graft that I know of was a lumber deal, the amount being about \$100, and the gentleman who made the commission, as he termed it, left suddenly on the next steamer, at the request of the chief engineer, and the government didn't pay his fare, either. He, I am glad to say, was not an engineer.

"On the isthmus such stories are rife at the 'Irish Consulate' (Martin Higgins' cafe), or at the 'International,' one will hear of the locomotives accidentally dropped over the side of the harbor because the engineer ordering them made a mistake in the size of the gauge, and so on and infinitum, according to the amount of brandy and soda consumed.

"I trust that Mr. Sager will have the true situation shown him, and in his next letter he will retract such an unfounded statement, which is not only detrimental to the cause, but to his successor now in office and the profession in general."

BIG FOX HUNT.

Long and Exciting Chase—Gossip About Mathews People.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
MATHESW, Va., January 6.—Some of Mathews' society people joined in a big fox hunt on New Year's Day. The chase was a long and exciting one. Some of those who rode were Dr. and Mrs. Robert Roy Hoskins, Dr. and Mrs. Carl Clifford White, Miss Adele Hunley and Mr. McSherry Hunley. After the hunt an informal reception was given by Mrs. Carl Clifford White.

Charles Lawrence Seale has returned to Hotel Mathews, after having spent a month in Richmond, visiting friends.

Mr. Charles Brown, of Richmond, was the guest of Hon. George T. Hunley during Christmas.

Miss Mary Gibson Hunley, who is attending the Woman's College, in Richmond, spent Christmas with her parents here.

Attorneys J. Boyd Sears and Leslie Garrett left Wednesday night for Williamsburg.

Mr. George Tinsley, of Wood's Cross Roads, Gloucester county, has recently purchased "Hyco," the handsome residence of Mr. Samuel Richardson, this place.

One of Baltimore's most noted surgeons, Dr. Blake, spent Sunday with his brother, Mr. "Poke" Blake.

Dr. A. Greyson Vaden spent Christmas with his parents on the Eastern Shore.

Bishop Gibson held confirmation services at Christ Episcopal Church on Sunday last.

The Rev. Henry Lane is spending a few days with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Lane, at the Eastern Shore.

The Rev. M. J. Jeffries, who has been stopping at the Chamberlin Hotel, at Old Point, spent a few days in Mathews this week as a guest of Rev. and Mrs. G. B. Cooke, at the rectory.

Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Baker are spending some time in Richmond.

Mr. Floyd White left Wednesday for Atlanta, Ga., where he has accepted a position with the Seaboard Air Line Railroad Company.

Dr. Woodward to Speak at West End Public School.

Dr. F. C. Woodward, of Richmond College, will deliver an interesting course of lectures at the West End public school at 4 P. M. on the "Four Periods of English Literature." They will be given in the following order:

Thursday, January 10th, "The Saxon-Norman Period;" Thursday, January 17th, "The Elizabethan Period;" Thursday, January 24th, "The Restoration Period;" Thursday, January 31st, "The Early Modern Period."

Given under the auspices of the Richmond Training School for Kindergarten teachers, the lectures are open to the public, and will take place in the kindergarten rooms of the West End School, at Main and Lombard Streets.

Resolved:
THAT I'LL SEE

Buster Brown and Tige,

at Albert Stein's Shoe Store Tuesday, January 8th, at 2 P. M.

Yes, the real, live Buster and Tige will give a FREE reception to every boy and girl in Richmond—and to the grown people, too—

Buster and Tige will tell you all about Buster Brown Blue Ribbon Shoes for boys and girls. Also the White House Shoes for men and women.

REMEMBER THE DATE AND THE HOUR, TUESDAY, JANUARY 8th, AT 2 P. M. And it's FREE—absolutely FREE—to all.

Albert Stein,
FIFTH AND BROAD STS.

MANY CAME BACK FOR HOLIDAY WEEK

These Have in Most Cases Returned and New Store Settles Down Again.

NEW STORE, VA., January 6.—The Christmas holidays have passed, and the large number of young people who have been in the neighborhood with parents and friends have returned to their new homes, schools, and places of business, many in distant States.

Mrs. Ethel Le Grand J. Morris, who has been visiting the old roof-trees at New Store, has returned to Boston to resume her duties upon the staff of the "Modern Priscilla Magazine."

Mr. Henry Louis Forbes, a most popular and accomplished young Virginian, more recently of South Carolina, spent the Christmas with his parents at Olney, N. C. He has returned to the principalship of the high school at Fort Law, S. C.

Mr. Ernest Jones, student in the law department at Washington and Lee University, and Maben Somerville Jones, of Columbia, S. C., spent the holidays with their parents in the country.

Mr. Wiley B. Morris, expert bird and turkey hunter, who has had a most successful hunting trip to his old haunts in this neighborhood, has returned to his work with the Harker Pottery Company, of East Liverpool, O.

Mrs. William Harnes, of Rosemary, N. C., has returned to her home, after a two weeks' visit to her parents here.

Misses Lucy Elean, Graham Trent, Louise Jones, Hattie Cate, Louise Forbes and Cassie Du Val have returned to their studies at the State Female Normal School, Farmville, Va.

Mr. M. C. Elam, one of the most popular men of the county, who has recently suffered a severe attack of sickness, is improving. His children, who were summoned by telegram to his bedside, have returned to their homes.

Mr. Louis Durrell Jones, who was recently so badly injured by his pet deer, is still crippled up to some extent, but is almost himself again.

Old "Uncle" Nelson Brooks, who left his sickbed to help Mr. Jones when the deer attacked him, has since died, possibly from the infirmities of age; but he bore to the grave the unhealed wounds made by the antlers of the infuriated stag.

The negroes are having many weddings and fairs, many of which prove, before breaking up, veritable shooting-matches and cutting-scraps. At one dance, held near here, one young negro, Penke by name, was shot through the body and killed. At another Edmund Jones was shot through the foot and seriously hurt.

Labor is exceedingly scarce. It is almost impossible now to get servants to do cooking, washing and the usual "servants' work."

At one of the negro churches near here a well attended meeting was recently held, at which the speaker, a colored preacher, made a powerful appeal to his audience to refuse to do any kind of work for the white people. He said: "They brought you down to the kitchen; now they want to get you into the wash-tub. Refuse to do any kind of work for them." It seems, from appearances, that many have taken their leader's advice. The white people hereabouts are rapidly learning to do their own work and to ignore black help entirely.

COURTS IN SESSION.

Hustings and Chancery Courts Begin January Term.

The January term of the Hustings Court will begin at 11 o'clock this morning, following close upon the heels of the December term, the business of which was concluded on Saturday evening.

The grand jury, which will find but little to do, will be called at 11 o'clock this morning, and the petit jury will be expected to be on hand at 11 o'clock to keep Judge, juries and officers busy for the full term.

The docket of the Hustings Court is not unusually large, but it always has enough on it at this season of the year to keep Judge, juries and officers busy for the full term.

The January term of the Chancery Court will begin at 10 o'clock this morning, Judge Grinnan presiding. The docket, which is civil entirely, is a large one, and will keep the judge busy for several weeks perhaps.

TO ASK DELAWARE TO MAKE EXHIBIT

President Tucker, of Jamestown Exposition, it at Dover to Urge Appropriation.

SHIPYARD PEOPLE MAY STRIKE

Ask for Increased Pay, and Are Awaiting Developments—Mr. Hubbard President Club.

NORFOLK, VA., January 6.—Harry St. George Tucker, president, and other exposition officers left here to-night for Dover, Del., for the purpose of inducing the little Delaware State to make an appropriation for a building and exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition. It is not doubted by the officials but the Delaware will act favorably on the proposition.

The Boilermakers' and Shipbuilders' Union of Norfolk want an increase of pay of 50 cents a day, and unless the increase is granted a strike is likely to result. The union has appealed to the national organization for instructions.

At a meeting of the Virginia Hotel Men's Association, to be called to order at the Pine Beach Hotel on Tuesday next, the matter of entertaining the visitors to the Jamestown Exposition will be taken up. Most of the members of the association expect to be here, and the meeting will continue for two days.

Rabbi R. S. Cohen, pastor of Ohel Shalom Temple, of Norfolk, has gone to Brooklyn, N. Y., for the purpose of considering a call extended him by a Brooklyn synagogue. It is thought that he will accept the call.

Mr. J. Leighton Hubbard has been elected president of the Virginia Club, the most exclusive organization for men in Norfolk.

AMELIA NEWS.

Much Money is Being Expended for Roads and Bridges.

AMELIA COURTHOUSE, VA., January 6.—The county board of supervisors met here to-day. They issued many warrants for a considerable amount of money, the principal one being to W. R. Dunnivant, superintendent of roads and bridges, for \$1,000, to pay for road work. Notwithstanding these heavy payments there is the greatest dissatisfaction with the condition of the roads and bridges, they being nearly impassable in many directions.

Among the other payments of the board of supervisors was the bill of Dr. Nelson, amounting to \$25, for holding the autopsy on the negro who was shot and killed by two of his companions during Christmas.

Dr. Geo. C. Eggleston was also paid \$50 for services at the county poorhouse.

The board also examined the jail and the courthouse, and determined to have necessary repairs put on both to make them safe and secure.

No successor to Mr. Wm. R. Dunnivant as superintendent of roads and bridges was recommended, and he was authorized to hold on to the position. Nor was any further action taken as to the sale of the county mules.

The Amelia Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, Mrs. Thos. R. Hardaway, president; Mrs. S. A. Wootton, treasurer, and Mrs. J. C. Eggleston, secretary, held a meeting to-day and determined to celebrate the birthday of General Robert E. Lee on the 15th by a public meeting in the courthouse. There will be appropriate music, an address by Dr. Jos. W. Southall and presentation of crosses of honor to the surviving veterans. The public is cordially invited.

Congressman R. G. Southall was here to-day and will return to Washington Monday.

Frederick Elder Dr. Whitty, of the Farmville district, conducted a religious service in evening at Virginia Club, which will be held to-morrow again.

The weather has been beautiful ever since the New Year began, and people are getting busy again after the holidays.

STOKES TO HANG ON MARCH 8TH

Negro Who Murdered Nelson Price Says He is Innocent of the Crime.

PETERSBURG, VA., January 6.—The negro, Algie Stokes, who was convicted of murder in the first degree in the Circuit Court of Nottingham last Friday, was yesterday sentenced to be hanged on March 8th next. Stokes stabbed Nelson Price, colored, to death on a street in Blackstone, August 15th last.

Sentence was pronounced by Judge J. M. Miller, who is now in session holding court for Judge Walter A. Watson. In reply to the usual question as to whether or not he had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced against him, Stokes replied that he was innocent of the crime charged against him.

Special services were held at the City Almshouse this afternoon by Rev. C. Braxton Bryan, rector of Grace Episcopal Church, who made a brief address to the inmates. After the services Christmas gifts prepared by the board of overseers of the poor were distributed.

Preparations are being made for a big masked festival at the Washington Street skating rink next Thursday night, with purpose the management has placed the use of the rink at the disposal of the Petersburg Lodge of Elks. Prizes will be given to the best characters in costume, and a handsome gold medal will be presented to the most graceful skater among the ladies.

The card list of committees is as follows: Reception, Mesdames Hughes, Bagby, Massie, Cheatwood, Billups, Moore, Beveridge, M. E. Howard and Edwards; candy, Misses Julia Yeager, Daisy Hancock, Mary Curtis, Marie Curtis, Mamie Waddy, Verna Atkinson, Grace Schermerhorn, and Mrs. Abner Goode; decorations, Mesdames Hasker, Riddick, Hiram Anderson, Richard Talley, Elliott, Ernest Moore, and Richard Anderson; Brown, Talley, Clarke, Misses Gary and Andrews; refreshment, Mesdames Howard, New, Carter, Moore, Taliaferro, Grawitt, The refreshment committee will be assisted by the following young ladies: Misses Julie Walsh, Nannie Miller, Hasker, Points, Murray, Bates, Caroline and Sadie De Jarnette.

In Honor of Misses Newcombe.

Mrs. John L. Grigg, of No. 24 North Twenty-fourth Street, entertained at a delightful New Year reception in honor of Misses Flossie and Macy Newcombe, of Washington, and Mrs. Rhonda, of San Francisco.

Mrs. Grigg was handsomely gowned in black point d'esprit over taffeta, and was



THE realization of everything you could hope for in cigarettes — complete satisfaction and truest economy—you'll find in

MECCA Cigarettes

Ten fine, plump, well-made cigarettes with a rich, oriental quality as pure, sweet and satisfying as you've gotten at a higher price—and you get the

10 for 5 cents



SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

The Week's Calendar.

Monday—Miss Whitefield will talk at Woman's Club in the afternoon on "Heraldry: Its Uses and Abuses." Progressive euchre in evening at Virginia Club, given by Senior and Junior Oakwood Memorial Associations. Stay-at-Home Whist Club in the evening, with Mr. John Tyler.

Tuesday—Mrs. Harry Randolph Way's tea, from 4 to 6 P. M. Tuesday German, in Masonic Temple, Tuesday night, from 9 to 12. Milton Work Whist Club, in the auditorium of Woman's Club, in afternoon. Miss Grace Sands to discuss "Renaissance Sculpture in Italy."

Wednesday—Meeting of Richmond Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, in Lee Camp Hall, at 11 A. M. Literary Round Table at Woman's Club, in the afternoon. Wedding of Miss Irving Williams Wright to Mr. George W. Shepherd in Seventh Street Christian Church, at 6 P. M.

Thursday—Mrs. J. J. Hickok and Mrs. James E. Cannon give a reception at Woman's Club, from 4 to 6 P. M. in honor of Mrs. Ivan Maltby and Mr. Stuart Neville Michaux. Kate Wheelock Whist Club, to meet with Mrs. C. E. Wingo, of No. 362 Park Avenue.

Friday—Mrs. Coleman Wortham's reception, from 5 to 7 P. M., at her home, No. 421 East Franklin Street.

Saturday—Reception at Deep Run Hunt Clubhouse, after the meet in the afternoon. Weekly afternoon hop at Hermitage Golf Club.

Mrs. Miller Present.

Mrs. J. Mason Miller and little Miss Margaret Miller are visiting friends in Staunton. Mrs. Miller was a member of the receiving party at one of the most elegant receptions of the winter, given Thursday evening last by Mr. and Mrs. A. Erskine Miller and the Misses Miller, in honor of Miss Mary Ellen Warwick.

Mrs. Miller was beautifully gowned in white net, with silver spangles, and Mrs. Erskine Miller, who is well remembered here as Miss Gladys Frazier, was beautiful in white lace over white satin, with diamonds.

Benefit Card Party.

The card party to be given this evening by the Senior and Junior Oakwood Memorial Associations promises to be very attractive. The entire lower floor of the Virginia Club will be thrown open, and every effort will be made by the ladies in charge to add to the enjoyment of the evening.

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Mrs. Grigg was handsomely gowned in black point d'esprit over taffeta, and was

assisted in receiving by Mrs. C. B. Mathews. The decorations were in Christmas evergreens and palms. At 12:30 o'clock a delicious supper was served.

Those present were: Misses Flossie and Macy Newcombe, Alma Day, Allice Bryant, Bessie Meoni, Marie Tucker, Hattie Bryant, Adele Trant, Otella Snyder, Annie Whitlock, Norma Fowles, Carrie Boatwright, Marie Ford, Grace and Ethna Stagg; Mrs. Ford; Messrs. E. Clayton, W. Dawson, J. Schaaf, S. Tucker, B. Woodward, of Gloucester county; James Powell, of Albemarle; H. Schaaf, E. Priddy, W. Ponton, A. Lane, C. Schaaf, H. Christian, J. Flournoy, Albert and Armitage Dandridge, T. Grigg, J. Grigg, W. Grigg, B. Grigg, C. Mathews, and Mr. and Mrs. Newcombe, of Washington.

In Honor of Guest.

Miss Sarah Agnes Anderson entertained on Monday evening last from 8 to 12 o'clock in honor of her little friend, Miss Louise Beazley, of Crewe, Va.

Those present were: Misses Ellen Louise Beazley, Pearl Priddy, Marie Ginzert, Wanda Yarbrough, Mary Powell, Virginia Bennett, Josephine Powell, Edna Powell, Louise Chalkley, Minnie Boshen, Ethel Young, Katharine Overman, Messrs. Valentine Lee, Lloyd Womack, Foster Powell, Guy Brothers, Bryant Martin, Fred Overman, Horace Powell and Maurice Noel, of Norfolk, Va.

The chaperons were Mrs. C. W. Anderson, Miss Anderson and Miss Hunt.

Birthday Party.

Miss Marie Frick celebrated her birthday on Thursday evening last by a party given in her home, No. 1514 West Cary Street.

Games and music made the evening pass delightfully, and supper was served at a late hour.

Miss Frick's guests were: Misses Maude Vashon, Lottie Heinlein, Essie Traylor, Marie Ledley, Madeline Iffeeke, Kate Miller, Mary Edmond, Lillie Traylor, Nonie Schutte, Lillie Butler, Messrs. Arthur Moore, Frederick Torrence, Dr. J. B. Ball, Robert Strotmeyer, Leonard Tiller, Thomas Hooper, Bridgess Underwood, Hugh Yates, Edwidge Noel, William Hantigan, A. T. Keeton and Ashby Jones.

Kraker—Constine.

A marriage which was attended by several Richmond people took place on Wednesday evening last in Wilkesbarre, Pa., when Miss Bertha Constine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Constine, became the bride of Mr. Gaston W. Kraker, of Richmond, the Rev. Marcus Salzman officiating.

The bride's home, where the ceremony was performed, was lavishly decorated with evergreens and mistletoe, and the ceremony took place under a canopy of holly and cedar.

Miss Marion Kline, the maid of honor, was gowned in blue crepe de chine over chiffon, and carried pink roses. Mr. Samuel Levy, of Philadelphia, was best man.

The bride, who entered with her father, was elegantly gowned in an imported gown of silk, trimmed with duchess lace. Her long tulle veil was caught with orange blossoms, and she carried a white Bible marked with sprays of lilacs of the valley. Her only ornament was a diamond pendant.

A reception followed the ceremony. After an extended wedding tour, Mr. and Mrs. Kraker will be at home in this city. Among the out-of-town guests attending were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Straus, of Richmond; Mr. and Mrs. Lipper and Mr. and Mrs. Straus, of Philadelphia.

Ryson—Draper.

The marriage of Miss Maude Draper to Mr. Henry T. Ryson, of Richmond, took place on Wednesday last in the home of Dr. W. W. Chaffin, at Dulaski, Va.

The attendants were General James Macgill and Mr. Calvin Graham, ushers; Miss Anna Belle Chaffin, flower girl; and Miss Mary Macgill, ring-bearer.

At the meeting of the Kate Wheelock Whist Club last week, highest score was made by Mrs. D. T. Williams and Miss Nannie Robinson, playing north and south, and Mrs. S. H. Boykin and Mrs. Larkin Glazebrook, playing east and west.

The club will meet next Thursday with Mrs. Charles E. Wingo, of No. 362 Park Avenue.

Cloze—Woodward.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Woodward announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Elnora Blanche, to Mr. William Russell Cloze, of Charlottesville, Va., the wedding to take place January 10th, in the Methodist Episcopal Church, of Louisa, Va., at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Personal Mention.

Mrs. B. T. Tomblin, of Hot Springs, Va., is the guest of Mrs. A. J. Warren, of No. 863 Third Avenue, Chestnut Hill, for a few days.

Mr. Withers T. Hoofnagle, who is undergoing treatment at Memorial Hospital, is improving.

Miss Blanche Saunders, of Wytheville, who has been visiting Mrs. William S. Gordon, left for her home Saturday night.

Mrs. Charles A. Boswell and Master Robert Boswell have returned from a visit to relatives in Suffolk.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Middleton Equihart have returned from their wedding tour, and are at home to their friends at No. 117 North Adams Street.

Miss Clifford Mahon, accompanied by her son, Chester, will leave to-day for their home, in Floral Park, L. I., after spending the holidays with his father, Mr. A. W. Mahon.

Miss Katherine Risson, of Danville, is the guest of Miss Louise Barber, at No. 714 East Leigh Street.

Miss Elizabeth Hatchkiss is spending some weeks with friends.

Miss May Jones, who has been visiting Miss Lottie Faulconer, returned home Saturday. During her stay in the city, she was the guest of Mrs. A. J. Warren, attending the guest of honor at several social functions.

Dr. and Mrs. Frank Longhead Brown, of Boston, Mass., are the guests of Mrs. Brown's parents, Captain and Mrs. James Bailey, in East Broad Street.

Miss Dorothea K. Hartung, who has been ill at her home, No. 312 East Grace Street, is improving.

Mrs. Frank O'Grady and Master Dupont

Geizer have returned from Charleston, S. C.

Miss Louise Finch is the guest of Miss Irene Briggs, near Scottsville, Va.

Miss Price Starling spent some time during the holidays at Cascade, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Stockell Morrison have returned from Clismon, Va., where they spent the holidays.

Judge Phlegar left Friday evening for Salem, Va.

The Hon. Henry C. Stuart is spending a few days at his country home, in Russell county.

Miss Polly Robins is visiting Mrs. Marys Jones, in Thirty-third Street, Newport News, Va.

Captain John T. Taylor has returned to his home in Lynchburg, after a visit to his daughter, Mrs. Horace A. Hawkins, in this city.

President F. W. Boatwright, of Richmond College, left Friday evening for Lynchburg.

Miss Marie Leahy visited at "The Terrace," in Scottsville, last week.

Mr. W. Cateby Jones spent Friday and Saturday at his home here, en route from Fronton, Co., to Port Henry, N. Y., to accept a responsible position.

Mr. Cecil Page, who has been undergoing medical treatment in this city, has returned to his home at Shelby, Gloucester county.

Miss Lella Nelson Willis, who has been visiting in Atlanta and Macon, Ga., will leave this week to be the guest of the Misses Pleasant, in Wilmington, N. C. In Atlanta and Macon, Miss Willis was charmingly entertained by Miss Hurt and Miss Miller, who were her Kappa Delta fraternity mates at Randolph-Macon Woman's College.

Mr. Eddie Hancock Williams and family have returned to their home in Washington, after a visit to their parents, of this city.

Misses Walter and Archer Briggs are visiting friends in Albemarle county.

Miss Ruth Marston and Master Chauncey Marston have returned from a pleasant visit to Saluda, Va.

Miss Mollie McGill Bridges, of Hanover county, is the guest of Mrs. Hutchins here.

Miss Josephine Tyler is the guest of Mrs. Nannie McCandlish in Saluda, Va.

Dr. J. W. Williams and Miss Eda Williams were the guests last week of Mrs. J. C. Hill and Mr. G. T. Goodwin, in Scottsville, Va.

Miss Ella Bailey was recently the